

# News Advisory



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Press Preview of \$15 Million Restoration of the U.S. Immigration Station at Angel Island

**Who:** Dave Matthews – Superintendent, Angel Island State Park  
Eddie Wong – Executive Director, Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation

**What:** Press-only preview – Reporters will be given the first of three planned previews of the historic United States Immigration Station on Angel Island now undergoing restoration and to reopen for public visits on February 15, 2009 (President's Weekend). On that date, for the first time ever, the entire Immigration Station barracks will be completely open to the public following a \$15 million restoration.

This press-only preview of restoration work includes an overview of progress to date, arrival of interpretive displays to be installed and interviews with State Parks officials and people who were detained on Angel Island when the U.S. Immigration Station was operating.

**When:** October 14, 2008 (Additional Previews to occur Dec. 9 and Feb. 10)

Media should take the 10 a.m. Angel Island ferry from Tiburon (Free to working media with identification). At the island, they will be met by State Parks and Foundation representatives, and transported to the U.S. Immigration Station. This press preview will take about two hours, with return ferry at noon.

**Why:** Lured by the promise of gold and a better life, Chinese began immigrating to the United States in 1848. However, because they were seen as displacing jobs for Americans, the Chinese Exclusion Act was passed. In 1905, construction on the Immigration Station began. It became a detention facility, where Chinese immigrants were held until they could prove they were joining relatives already in the country. Those detained carved and etched their poetic stories in beautiful calligraphy on the walls of the barracks building. These stories are vivid, emotional reminders of disappointment and struggle in a search for a new life in a new land. With Phase One of the Immigration Station restoration complete, the stories come alive more vividly than ever before, ensuring preservation for future generations. ###